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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2945
INFO RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4707
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0057
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 4944
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 0071
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2935
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 4342
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0147
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0109
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0482
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1239
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1916
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 002346

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/30/2016
TAGS: PREL PGOV UNIFIL IS LE NP
SUBJECT: NEPAL TO SEND PKO FORCE TO LEBANON

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

¶1. (C) The cabinet of the Government of Nepal (GON) decided on August 29 to send a battalion of soldiers to Lebanon to join the UN peacekeeping force. Brigadier General Chand, Director of Public Relations for the Nepal Army, told the Defense Attaché that there could be up to 860 soldiers sent to the UN Mission. Chand said that the unit would be an ad hoc unit, selected from across the Army. Selection had already begun, and Chand expected it to take around two weeks, after which the soldiers would be sent to the Birendra Peace Operations and Training Center (BPOTC) at Panchkhal. Based on normal training cycles, DAO estimates that the soldiers could be deployed in around three months.

¶2. (C) Dinesh Bhattarai, Joint Secretary in the UN Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told Emboff that the GON may need airlift assistance to get the troops to Lebanon. He asked if that was something the U.S. would be willing to provide.

Comment

¶3. (C) Nepal moved quickly to answer the call for UN peacekeepers in Lebanon, a role the Nepal Army has played many times in the past. The GON seems proud to be providing these soldiers, and it understands that this deployment may boost the GON's standing in the international community. That standing is particularly important as the country seeks UN assistance in its fragile peace process and transition to democracy and pursues a rotating seat on the UN Security Council.

MORIARTY